have come to notice. In order to prevent this menace, regular checks are conducted by the ticket checking staff in association with the Railway Protection Force and Government Railway Police personnel. During the period from July to December 2004, a total of 45,311 persons were prosecuted for unauthorized vending/hawking and begging under section 144 of the Railways Act, 1989.

Case of fraud in sale of tickets for general bogies

†1973. SHR NAND KISHORE YADAV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a case of fraud in the sale of tickets for general bogies and charging excess fare in Darbhanga, Patna and the North Eastern Uttar Pradesh has come to light as has been appearing in media;

(b) whether stringent action has been taken against employee involved in the said fraud;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Government have formulated any stringent rules to check such incidents in future; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir. There has been a case of sale of fake tickets for general bogies at Patna in February, 2005 and a case of charging excess fare in Darbhanga.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. In the case of sale of fake tickets, two Commercial staff are under investigation for their involvement. In the case of charging excess fare, the railway staff has been taken up under Discipline & Appeals Rules, 1968.

(d) and (e) Regular checks are conducted both at the stations and on running trains with special emphasis on detection of frauds in the sale of second class unreserved tickets. In addition, sale of tickets at Booking Offices is monitored at various levels. Special drives are also conducted in mass-contact areas during rush/festival seasons jointly by Commercial,Vigilance and Security departments.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.